

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14

AID-20 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 061145Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6019

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

CJCS

COMUSSAG

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6397

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: LATEST ON CONSCRIPTION

REF: A) PHNOM PENH 6129

B) PHNOM PENH 6389

1. SUMMARY. PHNOM PENH'S RECRUITMENT/CONSCRIPTION MACHINERY CONTINUED TO PERFORM AS USUAL, GENERATING 347 NEW SOLDIERS FOR FANK DURING THE WEEK APRIL 29-MAY5. VOLUNTEERS TO UNITS, INDUCTED RALLIERS AND PROVINCIAL RECRUITING SWELLED THESE ACCESSIONS TO A TOTAL OF 1,238. SEVEN-HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN RECENTLY LINDUCTED RALLIERS DISAGREED OVER TERMS OF SERVICE AND PAY (REF B) AND 348 OF THEM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION AT THE RECRUITMENT CENTER TO GO AWOL. FANK C-IN-C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ TOOK SOME FIRE FROM UNHAPPY, WAR-WEARY CIVILIANS IN A MAY 2 MEETING WITH CIVIL SERVANTS, MILITARY, VETERANS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AS HE APPEALED FOR CITIZENS TO COME TO THE COLORS. MIXED TEAMS RESUMED THE DRAFT DODGER/DESERTER ROUNDUP. END SUMMARY.

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2. DESPITE THE MAY 1 HOLIDAY, THE CAPITAL'S DISTRICT OFFICES MANAGED TO SEND DRAFT NOTICES OUT AT A RATE OF ABOUT 375/DAY DURING THE WEEK APRIL 29-MAY 5. THE CITY'S DISTRICTS AND WARDS NETTED 347 MEN FOR THE WEEK; THE PROVINCES ADDED AN ADDITIONAL 228 MEN; AND VOLUNTEERS FOR UNITS AUTHORIZED TO RECRUIT AND INDUCT RALLIERS RAISED TOTAL ACCESSIONS TO 1,238. DURING THE WEEK 727 RECENTLY INDUCTED RALLIERS PROTESTED CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND PAY BY MARCHING FROM THE RECEPTION CENTER TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT LON NOL. IN THE CONFUSION ABOUT HALF, POSSIBLY UNHAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS, WENT AWOL. THE WEEKLY FIGURES, ADJUSTED FOR THESE 348 AWAO, BRING THE TOTAL FOR 206 DAYS OF THE NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN TO 18,964 RECRUITS FROM PHNOM PENH AND 31,623 COUNTRYWIDE.

3. CIVIL SERVANTS, VETERNS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AND FANK REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED A MAY 2 MEETING WHICH LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ CALLED TO DISCUSS CONSCRIPTION AND THE GENERAL MILITARY SITUATION. HE THREW THE MEETING OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND, IN THE PROCESS, TOOK FIRE FROM SOME UNHAPPY, WAR-WEARY CIVILIANS OVER CORRUPTION AND WHATTHEY DESCRIBED AS THE ESSENTIAL MEANINGLESSNESS OF THE WAR. FERNANDEZ NEVERTHELESS STRESSED THE NEED FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND THE DUTY OF CITIZENS TO FULFILL THEIR MILITARY OBLIGATIONS.

4. MIXED TEAMS FOR ROUNDING UP DESERTERS AND DRAFT DODGERS RESUMED WORK MAY 6.
DEAN

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